THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. KV Pushp Vihar sold 2753 registration forms from 15th January to 20th March, 2002. However, the printing of forms from Sl. No. 1401 to 1453 was found to be defective and therefore certified photocopies were distributed in lieu of these 53 forms. There is no rule which prohibits this.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Although as soon as the results of the previous year are declared, vacancies becoming available in various Classes are notified yet application forms are given to any person on demand.

Conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes

*550. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to stop large-scale conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of the reclamation of paddy fields for non-agricultural purposes; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to deal with the ecological problem being derived from such conversion?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The land-use classification data indicate that the net sown area has increased from 140.27 million hectare in 1970-71 to 142.02 million hectare in 1997-98. During the same period, the area under non-agricultural uses has increased from 16.48 million hectare to 22.53 million hectare. It indicates that the net sown area has increased by 1.75 million hectare in last three decades, whereas area under non-agricultural uses has increased by 6.05 million hectare. It implies, therefore, that even if some agricultural land has been diverted into non-agricultural uses, a large area has been brought under cultivation through reclamation of wastelands and other degraded lands, thereby, increasing the net sown area.

Land is a State subject and some States, through their State Land Use Boards have issued instructions to Land Departments of Governments to

ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural uses and if it becomes necessary to do so, then efforts may be made to provide equivalent land in lieu of diverted land. It may be noted that Government of India provide support to State Land Use Boards.

(c) and (d) The area under paddy was 43.45 million hectare in 1997-98, 44.80 million hectare in 1998-99 and 44.97 million hectare in 1999-2000. It shows an increasing trend and implies that there is no conversion of paddy fields to non-agricultural purposes. Even if some paddy land has been diverted, additional area has come under paddy cultivation, thereby, exhibiting an increasing trend. The area under paddy for major States for last three years in annexed as Statement. (*See* below). The variation in the paddy areas for some States, in these years, is mainly due to variation in rainfall as Kharif paddy is dependent on the rainfall.

Statement

Area under paddy for the major States during last three years

Sl. No.	State	Years		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.50	4.32	3.90
2.	Assam	2.49	2.42	2.61
3.	Bihar	5.11	5.09	5.03
4.	Gujarat	0.67	0.62	0.66
5.	Haryana	0.91	1.08	1.09
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.28	0.27	0.25
7.	Karnataka	1.35	1.43	1.45
8.	Kerala	0.39	0.35	0.35
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5.43	5.48	5.35
10.	Maharashtra	1.48	1.48	1.51
11.	Orissa	4.50	4.45	4.60
12.	Punjab	2.28	2.52	2.60
13.	Tamil Nadu	2.26	2.27	2.20

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	5.66	5.88	5.93
15.	West Bengal	5.90	5.90	6.18
16.	Others	1.24	1.24	1.26
	ALL INDIA	43.45	44.80	44.97

Fuel from solid wastes

*551. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has developed the technology to recover fuel from the municipal solid wastes, on a pilot scale;

(b) whether the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council has identified a suitable industrial partner in Bangalore for the same;

(c) if not, whether Government would take steps to commission, a plant in Bangalore, to process garbage; and

(d) whether the Karnataka Goverhment has sought Central Government's assistance in establishing such commercial-scale plants in that State?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Department of Science and Technology (DST) successfully demonstrated the technology to recover fuel pellets from Municipal Solid Wastes on a pilot scale level in Deonar dump yard near Mumbai with technomanagerial support from Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). The pilot scale fuel pelletisation plant with total indigenous efforts was engineered, procured, erected and establised at a production rate of 2 Tonnes per Hour of fuel pellets having a calorific value of about 3000 Kcal/Kg. The process of conversion of garbage into fuel pellets involves primarily drying, separation of none combustibles, size reduction and pelletisation. A commercial scale plant for processing 700 Tonnes per day of Municipal Solid Wastes to produce about 210 Tonnes per